

Dear Honorable Senator Catherine Osten, Senator Paul Formica, and Representative Toni Walker:

My name is Anissa Berasi and I am from Glastonbury. I have three children who attend Glastonbury-East Hartford Magnet School ("GEHMS") in Glastonbury, which is part of the CREC magnet school system. I am writing to ask you to please support the continued funding for our magnet schools.

First, let me thank you for your past support for funding magnet schools in Connecticut. My children benefit greatly through the extraordinary opportunities they experience every day at GEHMS. This diverse and engaging learning environment focused in the sciences is incomparable to even the best public schools in the area. Additionally, I know that my children learn better and are more prepared for the real world as a result of working alongside other students from different backgrounds.

If you haven't ever had the chance to visit GEHMS and experience the unique learning environment it provides, I encourage you to do so and am confident that you will leave with a new found appreciation for GEHMS and all the CREC magnet schools. From the take-apart labs to PBIS ambassador assemblies; the boat regatta to magnetic attractions, every day that I walk into GEHMS, I am confronted with the feeling that my family is so lucky to be a member of the GEHMS community.

In these tight budget times, our magnet schools are at risk. Without sustainable funding, CREC which operates seventeen of these innovative schools, will be forced to either cut programming or to increase the costs they charge to local school districts.

I am asking the legislature to follow through on its promise to invest in the future of *all* students. Magnet schools have a successful track record of closing the achievement gap and providing all students a chance not only to succeed, but also to thrive. I urge you to continue funding the schools that are already operating and available and have demonstrated success before you consider funding new school choice options.

Thank you for reading my letter. Please reply and share with me how you will ensure that my children's school's funding will remain in place. I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Sincerely,

Anissa Berasi